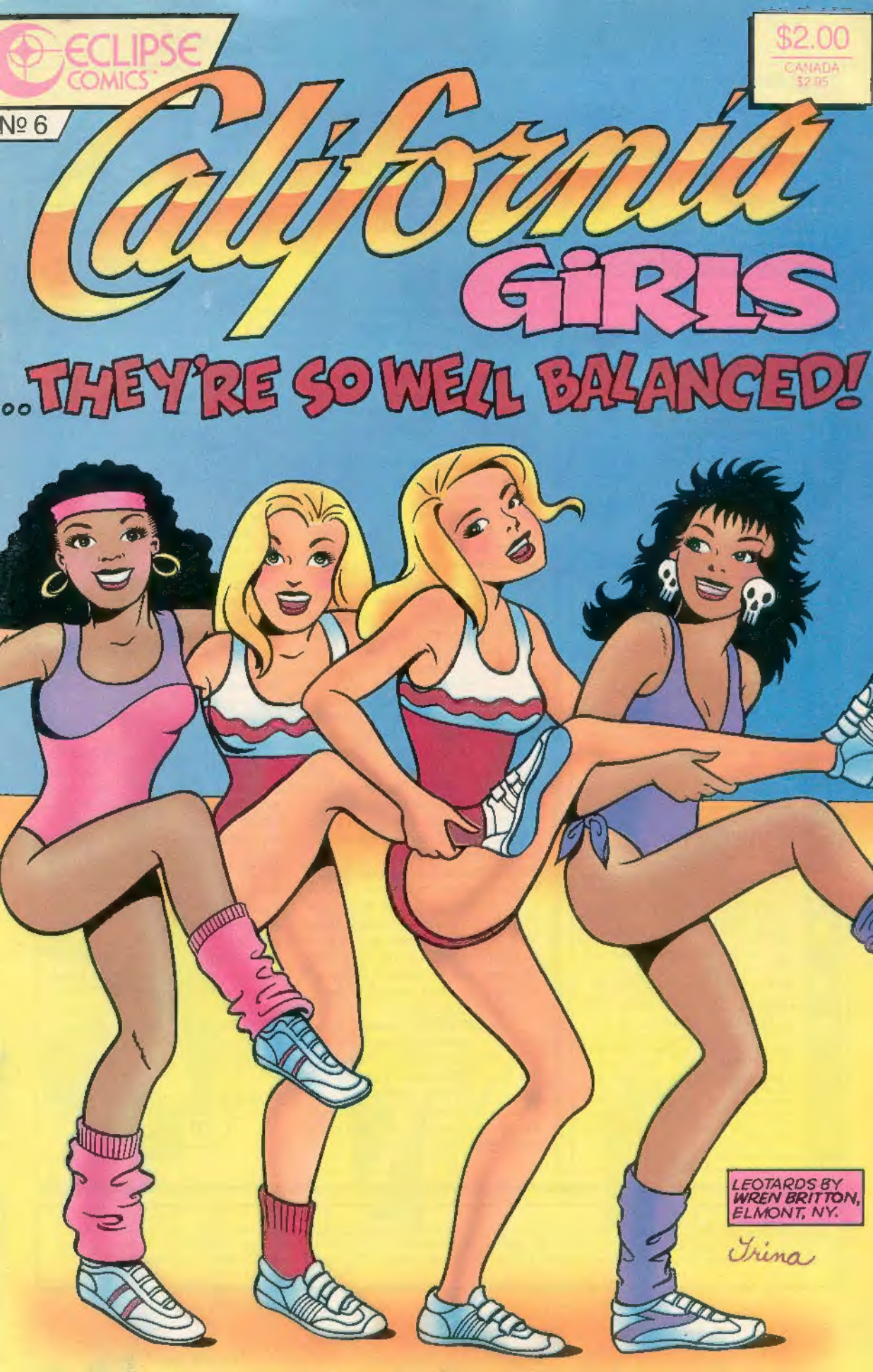
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California GIRLS
..THEY'RE SO WELL BALANCED!
LEOTARDS BY WREN BRITTON, ELMONT, NY.
Trina

The PENUMBRA

WRITE TO: ECLIPSE COMICS - P.O. BOX 1099 - FORESTVILLE - CALIFORNIA - 95436

ON THE RACKS

A indicates an **Airboy** crossover title
S indicates a **Scout** crossover title
4W indicates a 4Winds production

AIRBOY no. 33 *New Format!*
Now in a monthly deluxe format, Airboy and Skywolf return to Bogantilla—with art by Stan Woch!

KAMUI nos. 12 & 13
Is Kamui dead—as the *watarishu* believe—or will he come to their rescue?

THE LIBERTY PROJECT no. 6 A
Cimarron versus Valkyrie and a townful of ex-Nelson Aviation employees!

NEW AMERICA no. 1 (of 4) *New Title!* **S 4W**
Timothy Truman's **Scout** saga continues in this tale of Army Ranger Rosanna Winter.

CALIFORNIA GIRLS no. 6
The notorious Dr. Doomuch is back! The twins go to Hawaii! Plus, paper dolls, and fashions by readers!

FUSION no. 6
Trouble abounds for Indio when the Tsunami is stolen! Plus, more Weasel Patrol!

THE 1988 AREA 88 CALENDAR
The perfect Christmas gift, this calendar reproduces the popular characters and planes from the hit Eclipse International/Viz Comics series!

AREA 88 nos. 12 & 13
The pilots of Area 88 must defeat the unbeatable Wolf Pack or die themselves!

MAI nos. 12 & 13
Mai surrenders to Kaieda. What will befall her now?

STRIKE! no. 4
Strike must face a super powered opponent for the first time!

LOST PLANET no. 4 (of 6)
Discover the past of Ambrose Bierce on the Lost Planet!

SWORDS OF TEXAS no. 2 (of 4) S 4W
Banner and the Swords of Texas take a hell-ride into Japanese-held lands of communist Mexico!

CHEAP SHODDY ROBOT TOYS no. 1 *New Title!*
The weapons race continues, but now with...giant robots?!

TALES OF THE BEANWORLD no. 8
Gran'Ma'Pa explodes and Beanworld is visited by a crowd of jerks from the sky!

AIRFIGHTERS CLASSICS no. 1 A
Reprinted in its entirety, the first-ever appearance of Airboy and all the Airfighters from the original 1942 Hillman comic!

MARAUDERS RECORD ALBUM
Stereo LP S
Timothy Truman and the Dixie Pistols bring you a full album's worth of foot-stompin' blues compositions. It's the same group that brought you the **Scout** no. 19 flexidisc. Also featuring the "Wedding of Scout" mini-comic. Available nowhere else.

ANSWERING MACHINES OF THE PROS: In this edition of "Secrets Behind the Comics" we shall examine the messages heard on the answering machines of professional artists and writers in the comic book industry.

MARK EVANIER: Mark, writer of *Crossfire, Groo* and other fine comics, is unique in having the services of supreme voice artist Daws Butler to make his tapes. We are treated to Yogi Bear and other Butler voices singing, joking and generally carrying on. Sometimes we get a less interesting tape in which Mark explains how he has a new answering machine that's just like his old one only more expensive.

JAMES FRY: James, penciller of *The Liberty Project*, doesn't know Daws Butler or June Foray, but that doesn't stop him. This virtuoso artiste does one of the longest messages on tape, in which he performs ALL the voices in an original skit featuring Rocky, Bullwinkle, Natasha, Boris and the Announcer! Must be heard to be believed.

TIM TRUMAN: Timothy, the ol' *Scout* Master himself, changes his messages often. Two weeks ago we had a cold, cruel Naked City type thing with heavy guitar music ("Sometimes you get lonely, want to talk to someone. . . well, I'm not the guy"), but this week he's started a new, Western series, with Ennio Morricone style guitar ("You know, in the old West, lots of times people weren't home. . . because. . . well, not that many people lived out there").

CHUCK DIXON: In one word, Chuck's answering machine is BORING. "Hi, this is Chuck. I'm not here right now." I guess he's too busy writing *Airboy, Skywolf, Strike, Winterworld,* and *Savage Sword of Conan* to record funny messages for his editors.

STEVE GERBER: The best, the weirdest, the most terrifying messages can be found on Steve's machine. He changes them about twice a week. They always sound frantic, as if he doesn't know if he'll live long enough to play them back. "Hi, this is Steve. If you're the courier with the ABC package, leave it with the manager. If you're not and you have good news, leave a message at the sound of the cuckoo. If you have bad news [long pause] I've moved to Nicaragua to set up a new animation studio called Sandinista Productions. You can reach me at the Samoza Hilton in downtown Managua."

Another sample from Steve: "Hi. It's me. Don't bother leaving a message, I won't have time to call you back. Beep."

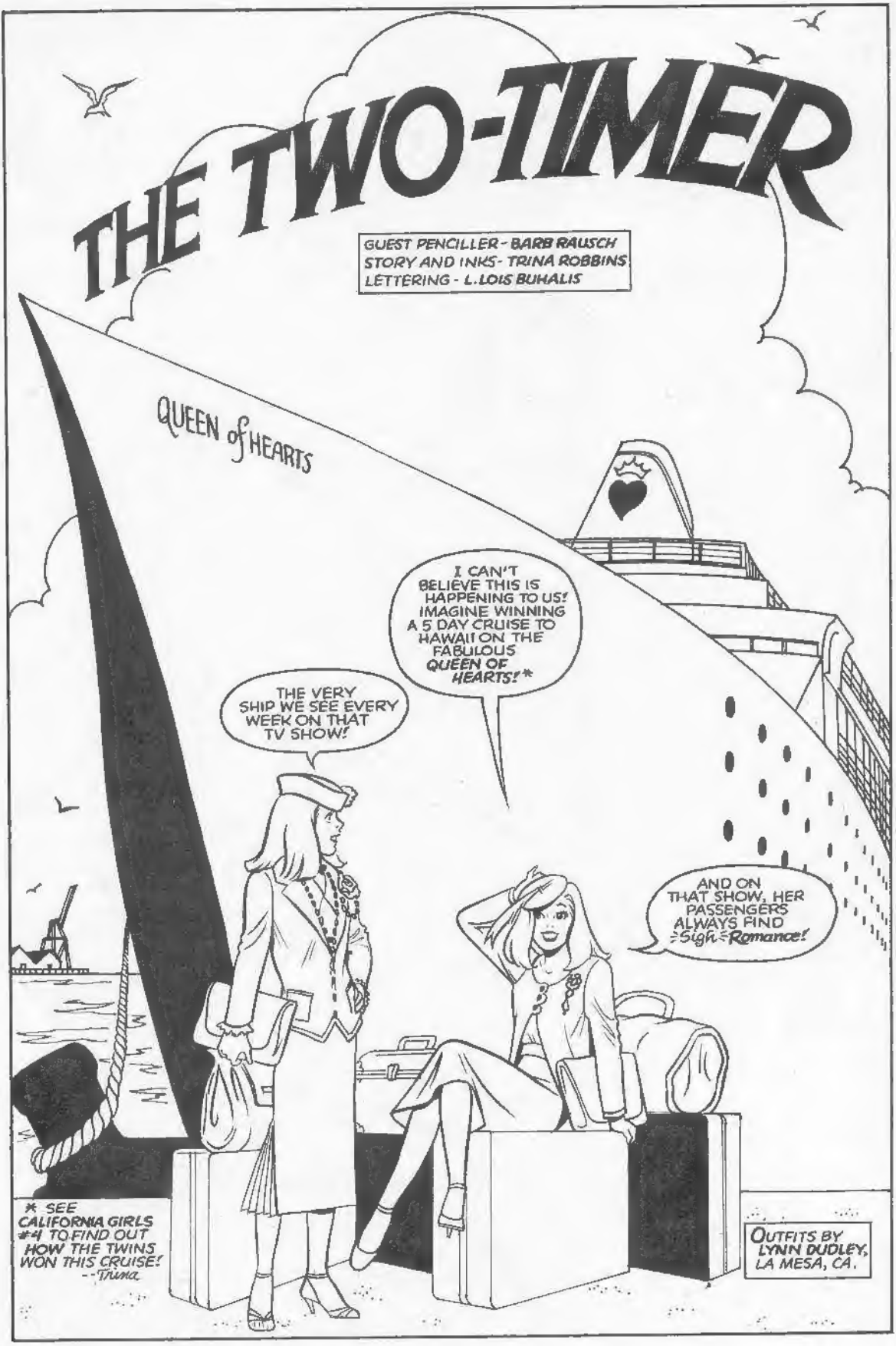
EARTHQUAKE ARTIFACT!: The recent series of earthquakes and aftershocks in Los Angeles had a minor effect on the comics business: it collapsed part of LEN WEIN'S garden wall!

EARTHQUAKE CONTEST!: Now YOU can own a valuable memento of both the 1987 Los Angeles earthquake AND the comic book industry: A genuine two pound chunk of LEN WEIN'S WALL, AUTOGRAPHED BY WEIN HIMSELF is being given away as a sweepstakes prize by Eclipse Comics! (And Len doesn't even work for us!)

Just send a postcard with your name, address, and the name and address of your favourite local comic book shop to: LEN WEIN EARTHQUAKE ARTIFACT SWEEPSTAKES, Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California 95436.

catherine yronwode

CALIFORNIA GIRLS™ no. 6, November 1987. Published monthly by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, CA 95436. Catherine Yronwode, Editor-in-Chief. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. California Girls TM and ©1987 Trina Robbins. All other material ©1987 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. The stories, characters and events in this magazine are fictional. Film by SM Graphics. For licensing information contact Dean Mullaney.

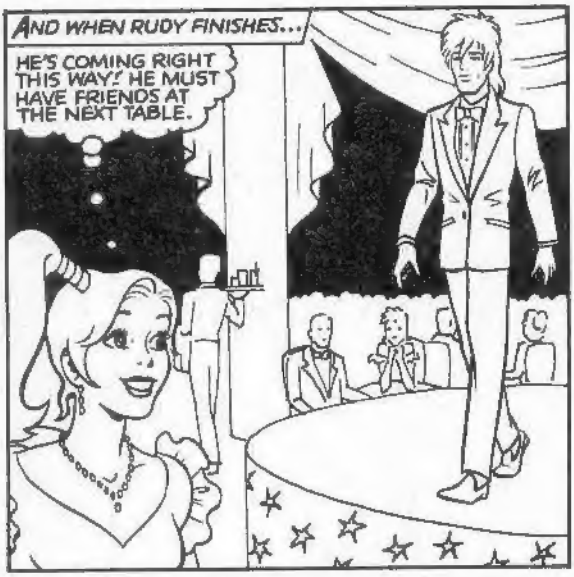

THE TWO-TIMER
GUEST PENCILLER - BARB RAUSCH
STORY AND INKS - TRINA ROBBINS
LETTERING - L. LOIS BUHALIS
QUEEN of HEARTS
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO US! IMAGINE WINNING A 5 DAY CRUISE TO HAWAII ON THE FABULOUS QUEEN OF HEARTS!*
THE VERY SHIP WE SEE EVERY WEEK ON THAT TV SHOW!
AND ON THAT SHOW, HER PASSENGERS ALWAYS FIND =Sigh= Romance!
* SEE CALIFORNIA GIRLS #4 TO FIND OUT HOW THE TWINS WON THIS CRUISE! --Trina
OUTFITS BY LYNN DUDLEY, LA MESA, CA.

DAY 1
THIS WAY TO YOUR CABIN.
-Groan- YOU GIRLS LEAVE ANYTHING HOME?
OUTFITS BY LYNN DUDLEY, LA MESA, CA.
MO, LOOK!
THAT WAS RUDY TOOTY, THE ROCK STAR! HE'S ENTERTAINING ON THIS CRUISE!
I DON'T THINK HE NOTICED US.
THAT'S OKAY. WE HAVE FIVE DAYS.
THE SHIP'S MOVING! LET'S GO UP ON DECK!
NOT ME. I'M GONNA HANG UP ALL MY CLOTHES, BEFORE THEY WRINKLE!
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
OH!
BE STILL, MY HEART!
RUDY'S OUTFIT BY WREN BRITTON, ELMONT, NY.

MY NAME'S RUDY. I'M SINGING IN THE LOUNGE TONIGHT.
I KNOW.
HI, I'M MO MULDOON.
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME ON A SHIP? I'VE BEEN ON DOZENS OF THESE CRUISES!
WAIT 'TIL YOU SEE THE FULL MOON REFLECTED IN THE OCEAN!
HOW Romantic!
AND PRETTY SOON YOU GET USED TO THE MOTION!
THE MOTION! SO THAT'S WHY I'M STARTING TO FEEL...
OOG!
YOU'RE NOT SEASICK, ARE YOU?
NOT ME! I JUST NEED TO ~~burp~~ LIE DOWN FOR A BIT!
I HOPE YOU'LL COME TO THE LOUNGE TO SEE MY ACT TONIGHT!

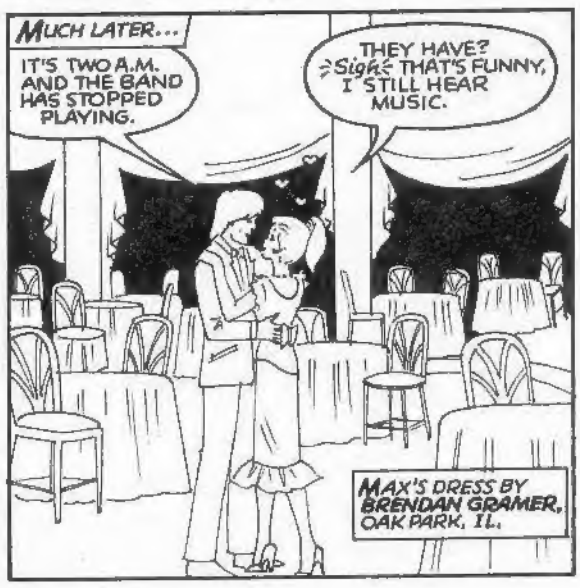
THAT NIGHT...
STILL TOO SEASICK TO GO OUT, MO?
GROAN!
MO'S NIGHTIE BY LYNN DUDLEY, LA MESA, CA.

SO MAX GOES TO THE LOUNGE ALONE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS RUDY TOOTY. HE IS SOOO COOL!


AND WHEN RUDY FINISHES...
HE'S COMING RIGHT THIS WAY! HE MUST HAVE FRIENDS AT THE NEXT TABLE.

HI, MISS MULDOON!
HE KNOWS MY NAME! CALM DOWN, GIRL!
H-HI?

I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
FEELING? JUST FINE, THANKS!
THEN YOU'RE WELL ENOUGH TO DANCE?
AM I?!


MUCH LATER...
IT'S TWO A.M. AND THE BAND HAS STOPPED PLAYING.
THEY HAVE? SIGH! THAT'S FUNNY, I STILL HEAR MUSIC.
MAX'S DRESS BY BRENDAN GRAMER, OAK PARK, IL.

DAY 2
MAX, I FEEL GREAT! ALL I NEEDED WAS A GOOD, LONG SLEEP! CARE FOR A DIP IN THE POOL?
NO THANKS, =yawn= I WAS DANCING 'TIL TWO A.M. AND I NEED TO CATCH SOME Z's!
MAX'S NIGHTIE BY LYNN DUDLEY, LA MESA, CA.

I WONDER WHO MAX WAS DANCING WITH?
MO!
SWIMSUIT BY KATHLEEN WEBB, SUMNER, WA.

HI, RUDY. I'M FINE! I JUST NEEDED A GOOD, LONG SLEEP!
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND YOU UP THIS BRIGHT AND EARLY!
A LONG SLEEP?

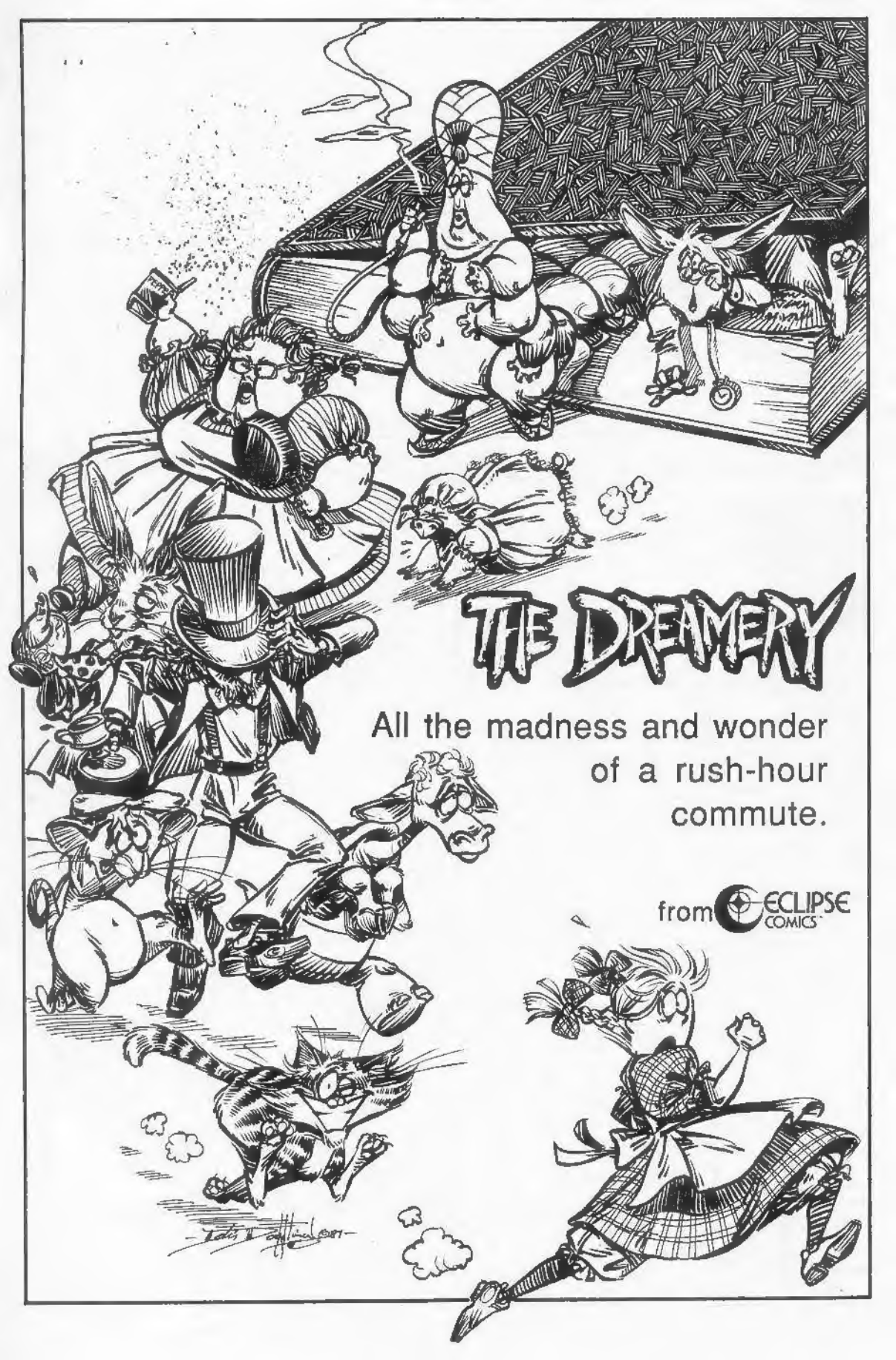
HOURS PASS...
...THEN I LEFT CLEVELAND AND CAME TO HOLLYWOOD, TO BECOME A STAR!
HOW FUNNY! I DIDN'T HAFTA COME TO HOLLYWOOD, 'CAUSE I WAS BORN THERE!
SURFIN'

MO, DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF THE SUN? YOU'RE TURNING A LITTLE PINK!
Oh, I'M JUST FINE, THANKS!
SURFIN'
RUDY'S SHIRT BY WREN BRITTON, ELMONT, NY.

AND THAT NIGHT...
Gee, MO, I'M SORRY YOU'RE TOO SUNBURNED TO GO OUT!
GROAN!
MAX'S DRESS BY WREN BRITTON.

DAY 3
I FEEL MUCH BETTER THIS MORNING! SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME UP FOR BREAKFAST, MAX?
NO, THANKS. ÷yawn÷ THIS TIME I DANCED 'TIL DAWN, AND WITH THE SAME CUTE GUY! WAKE ME FOR DINNER!
MAX IS HAVING A BALL AT NIGHT, EVEN IF SHE IS SLEEPING THE DAY AWAY. WONDER WHO HER CUTE GUY IS?
Oh, HERE COMES MY CUTE GUY!
MO! ÷yawn÷ I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU UP AND AROUND!
Oh, I'M FEELING TOTALLY AWESOME THIS MORNING!
AND WE WERE DANCING 'TIL DAWN! THIS GIRL NEVER SLEEPS!
RUDY AND MO ARE COSTUMED BY WREN BRITTON.
Dear Reader, We don't have to tell you about Day Four, do we?
SO LET'S SKIP TO THE MORNING OF THE LAST DAY.
COME ON, MAX! THIS MORNING YOU HAFTA GET UP! THE SHIP IS APPROACHING OAHU, AND WE'LL BE DISEMBARKING IN AN HOUR!
BUT ÷yawn÷ RUDY AND I DANCED 'TIL DAWN AGAIN LAST NIGHT!
RUDY!?!
YEAH, RUDY TOOTY THE ROCK STAR! WE'VE SPENT EVERY NIGHT DANCING! ISN'T IT ÷Sigh÷ ROMANTIC?

BUT RUDY TOOTY AND I SPENT EVERY DAY TOGETHER!
WHY THAT NO-GOOD, TWO-TIMING BLUEBEARD! YOU MEAN HE WAS GOING AROUND WITH BOTH OF US?
WHILE ON DECK...
WHAT I REALLY NEED IS A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP. BUT FIRST, I WANT TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE GIRL WHO'S KEPT ME UP FOR FIVE NIGHTS.
ALOHA, MO!
I'M MAX, NOT MO, YOU--YOU--BIGAMIST!
HUH?
I'M MO, AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
CHEEZ LOUISE! THEY'RE TWINS!
AND MO'S DRESS IS BY WREN BRITTON, TOO.
COME, MO.
YES, MAX.
BUT...
THERE HE IS, MARTHA!
Mr. TOOTY, WE WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH WE ENJOYED BEING ON THIS CRUISE WITH YOU...
WELL, I'LL BE... HE'S ASLEEP!
ZZZZZ
THE END!


THE DREAMERY
All the madness and wonder of a rush-hour commute.
from ECLIPSE COMICS

RESORT FASHIONS FOR MAX

CALIFORNIA BEACH CO.
JUMPSUIT BY DEBBIE KIM, KIRKLAND, WA.
SWIMSUIT BY COURTNEY WILLIAMS, LAFAYETTE, CA.
PLEATED SILK TOP AND MINISKIRT BY BRENDAN GRAMER, OAK PARK, IL.
CROP TOP AND WRAP SKIRT BY MONA WALLS, ITHACA, NY.
LACEY MINI AND LEGGINGS BY BARBARA COTTRELL, MORRISVILLE, PA.

WE KNOW WHAT'S

HOT!

Every week we'll help you sort through the hundreds of titles from the dozens of publishers so you won't miss out on your favorite Eclipse comic and other hot books. Plus we feature news, reviews, previews and interviews to help keep you on top of the ever-changing world of comics. Best of all, it's free. That's right, **FREE!** Just ask your local retailer for it.

Comic Shop News™

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My Friend Lulu by Mo
I love to visit my friend Lulu
MO! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME! MOM'S MAKING ENCHILADAS.
LULU'S OUTFIT BY MONA WALLS, ITHACA, NY.
MO'S MINI BY BRENDAN GRAMER, OAK PARK, IL.
STORY AND ART BY TRINA ROBBINS
LETTERING BY L. LOIS BUHALIS
FROM A STORY IDEA BY CINDY MARTIN, BROOKLYN, NY.
Her mom is always cooking something delicious.
EAT, IT'S GOOD FOR YOU. PUT SOME MEAT ON YOUR BONES.
Gee, Mrs. MENDOZA, LULU'S LUCKY TO HAVE A MOM LIKE YOU.
LULU? WHO IS THIS LULU? MY DAUGHTER'S NAME IS LUISA MARIA CONCHITA MENDOZA!
Oh, MA!
LULU'S MOM IS WEARING A DRESS BY BECKY STANTON, CAMPBELL, CA.

Lulu has four big brothers. They tease her, but I can tell they really like her.
LUISA!
MARIA!
CONCHITA!
MENDOZA!
YOU GUYS.
LULU'S BROTHERS ARE DRESSED BY BARBARA COTTRELL, MORRISVILLE, PA.

Lulu and her brothers have a rock group called the CRAZY BABYZ. All her brothers are cute, but the cutest is Raoul.
YO! WHAT GOES, TWINKLE TOES?
RAOUL, YOU REMEMBER MY FRIEND...

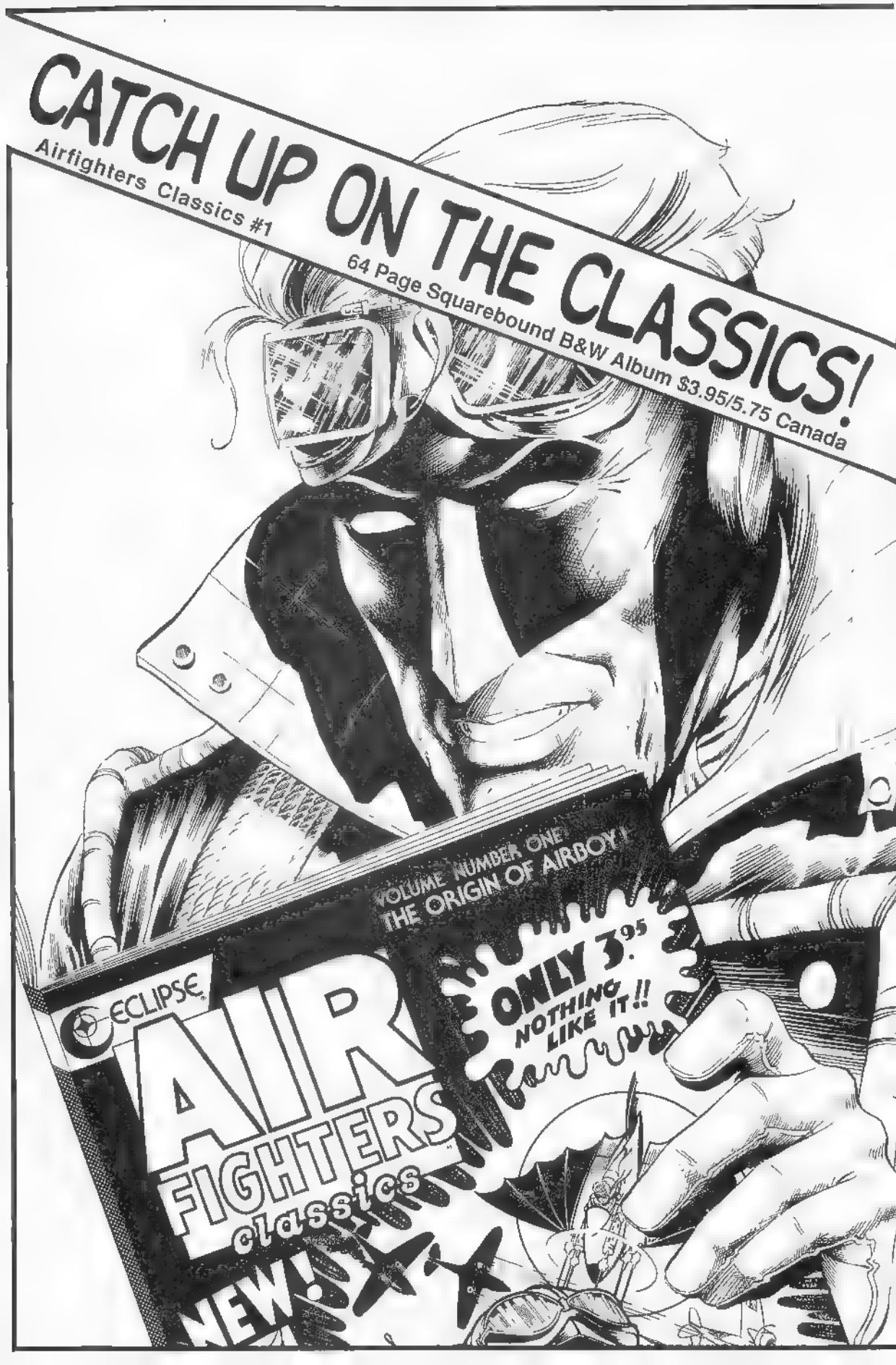
Trouble is, Raoul can't even remember my name!
Oh, SURE... uh, MAX, RIGHT?
I'M MO.

I wish Raoul teased me the way he teases Lulu.
SO, MO, YA WANNA GO TO THE MALL?
DAHLING, I SIMPLY MUST BUY A FLOUNCED FRAMISTAN TO MATCH MY TIARA!

KNOCK IT OFF, BIG BRO! YOU COULD USE SOME NEW CLOTHES YOURSELF!
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT...

I WAS PASSING HATS UNLIMITED, AND I SAW THIS GREAT HAT IN THE WINDOW!

SO I BOUGHT IT, WHAT D'YA THINK? IS IT ME?
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
Ew, GROSS!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA WEAR THAT?
omigod, IT'S THE PITS!
HAT FROM KEN STEACY, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA.
RAOUL, THEY'RE RIGHT. THAT HAT IS GRODY TO THE MAX!
I THOUGHT IT WAS COOL. I'M GONNA WEAR IT TONIGHT, WHEN OUR GROUP PLAYS AT THE KOO KOO KLUB.
TONIGHT?
NO WAY!
EITHER THAT HAT GOES OR I GO!
Uh, RAOUL, I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD WEAR THAT HAT TONIGHT.
Aw...
THE POOR GUY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR THIS WHITE LIE!
WELL, I THINK RAOUL'S HAT IS NEAT!
I REALLY DO!
REALLY?
YOU DO? THANKS, um--YOU'RE LULU'S FRIEND MO, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
FINALLY! HE KNOWS MY NAME!
I LOVE visiting my friend Lulu!
End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TOP OF THE NEWS

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Hamsters #9 Ends Hit Series

Every *ARBBH* Artist Will Be Represented

Brent Anderson, popular artist of such series as *Somerset Holmes*, *Strikeforce Morituri*, and *The X Men*, will contribute a special "tribute" cover to *Adolescent Radioactive Black Belt Hamsters #9* the series final issue.

The book will feature four short stories with work by Mark Martin (*Gnatnet*), Chuck Fiala (*Bullet Crow*), Ken Meyer Jr. (*Clint*), and the original Hamster artist, Parsonavich. Sam Kieth and Chin will provide the issue with a framing sequence.

ARBBH #9 will also have a large pin-up section in back, with artwork by Ron Lim (*Badger*, *Psi-Force*) and Sam de la Rosa, Herb Wood, Bryan Robles, Mike *Enchanter*) Dringenberg, and Ty Templeton, of *Critters* and *Stig's Inferno* fame.

Skywolf and Riot Walk Down Aisle

Dan Spiegle To Illustrate 'Wedding Of The Decade'

Popular *Crossfire* and *Blackhawks* artist Dan Spiegle will be taking the helm of the Skywolf back-up series in *Airboy* #34-37, and for the occasion, writer Chuck Dixon has fashioned the wedding of the decade--the decade being the 1950s.

In issue #36, Skywolf and Riot O'Hara will finally tie the knot in a wedding ceremony full of special cameo appearances. Among the guest stars will be Sgt. Strike (who plays a major role in issue #35), Skinny McGinty, The Bald Eagle, The Fighting Devil Dogs from *Prowler*, and a host of other aviation heroes.

"Cat (Yronwode) proposed the idea, and at first I was reluctant," recalls writer Chuck Dixon. "But she's very persuasive, and I feel that the four stories involving the marriage are the strongest ones in the series to date."

Of course, regular *Airboy* readers know that by the 1980s, Skywolf is a confirmed bachelor. "Obviously, since Sky isn't married now and he was married then, something is going to happen," says Yronwode. "We guarantee that no supervillain is going to shove Riot off a bridge. Sad commentary on comics today that we have to add that footnote. On the other hand," she laughs, "we might be lying."

The four-part wedding story is no lie however. "Basically, Sky and Riot have their backs up against the wall once again during the closing days of the Korean conflict," says Dixon. "After encounters with the Chinese army Sgt. Strike, and impending nuclear devastation, Sky proposes to Riot. This is followed by a bachelor party with cameos by just about every male Airfighter--plus lots of surprises. There's plenty off action," assures Dixon, "even though it's a romance story."

Airboy is a monthly, full-colour, Baxter series retailing for $1.75. The lead stories continue to feature the regular art team of Stan Woch and Willie Blyberg. Issue #34 ships December 1.

Dogs of Danger Rips Into Action

4Winds Creators Cameo In *Swords of Texas* Back-Up

4Winds creators Timothy Truman, Flint Henry, Chuck Dixon, Tim Harkins, Beau Smith, and many others will be making cameo appearances in the back-up series to *Swords of Texas*. "Your job is to figure out just who's who," says writer Beau Smith.

Drawn by Flint Henry, "The Dogs of Danger" will deliver "one of the most rip-snortin' adventures to ever grace the printed page," if Smith's word can be trusted.

Beau LaDuke, a popular character from Timothy Truman's acclaimed *Scout* series, stars, and his colorful cast of friends and family are also on hand.

In the four-part story, which runs for the duration of this *Scout* mini-series, Beau and his brothers Mitch "Bluto" LaDuke and Gig LaDuke head back to the hills of West Virginia to help their daddy Big Rog LaDuke battle off a power-mad insurance agent, a modern day snake oil /steroid salesman, and Colonel Pate, "the government up dog." When these low life bad boys try to take Big Rog LaDuke's theme park away for their own selfish reasons, hot lead and mighty cusswords are bound to fly.

A four-part monthly mini-series on Baxter paper, *Swords of Texas* is written by Chuck Dixon with art by Ben Dunn and Mark McKenna. Painted colour is by *Scout* regular Sam Parsons. The first issue ships October 20 and retails for $1.75.

RETAILER PUSH BRINGS FANS TO *CAL GIRLS*

Female Customers Take Extra Care, Says Trina

"Yes, you *can* sell a black and white book with no superheroes in it!" proclaims *California Girls* writer/artist/creator Trina Robbins in a recent open letter to comics retailers. "*California Girls* isn't just any black and white comic (it isn't even all black and white!). It's aimed for a specific market, but that market won't be able to find it unless you help."

Robbins wrote the letter to retailers after her advice to Marc Davis, manager of Comic and Card Castle in San Jose, CA, worked wonders on his store's sales of *California Girls*. "He came up to me at the San Diego Con to tell me that my advice worked, and that the book not only sold out, but the readers were returning for the next issue," says Robbins.

"I told Marc that young girls will come into your store, often unwillingly, dragged there by their father, brother, or boyfriend. You can tell by looking at them that they're bored," Robbins says. "They'll fidget, and ask if the male who brought them there is finished yet—can they go soon?

"The superhero comics bore them—they don't relate to them. These girls are your targets. Show them a copy of *California Girls* and tell them that this is one book you know they'll like. That's all there is to it. Once the audience knows about *California Girls*, the book will sell itself, and they'll be back for more."

Valkyrie! Volume Christmas Must

Dixon and Gulacy Sell-Out Mini-Series To Be Collected

One more item on every comic collector's Christmas wish list will be *Valkyrie! Prisoner of the Past*, a single 72-page squarebound volume bringing together all three issues of Chuck Dixon, Paul Gulacy, and Willie Blyberg's smash mini-series.

"*Valkyrie* was a huge sell-out across the country," says publisher Dean Mullaney. "Fans in Dallas, Chicago, and San Diego (sites of the summer's biggest conventions) were begging us for copies, and there just wasn't anything we could do. Retailers underordered, we printed from those orders, and the book was grabbed off the racks. Maybe this compilation volume will help make it up to frustrated fans."

Paul Gulacy will provide a new painted cover for the edition, which ships December 1 and retails for $6.95.

Overships Continue

Distributors Ask For Extra Copies

"I spoke with every single distributor," says Eclipse distribution manager Sean Deming, "and the overwhelming majority said our recent policy of overshipping comics has been a big help in reducing the number of dealers who get turned away when asking for reorders. Naturally, we're going to keep it up."

Overshipped books are fully returnable if they haven't sold in ninety days. "So far, we've had no books returned," says Deming. Titles to be overshipped in October are: *Detectives, Inc. #3*, *The Liberty Project #5*, *The Masked Man #3*, *Prowler #4*, *The Three Stooges 3-D #3*, *Strike! #3*, and *The Swords of Texas #1*.

Strike! Sales Create Heat On East Coast

Dixon, Lyle Superhero Captures Fan Attention

"*Strike* #1 is our number one selling independent comic this year," says Dave Bowen of Alterna-e Worlds. "It even outsold *Lone Wolf and Cub*."

More and more comics shop owners on the East Coast are reporting rampaging sales on Eclipse's latest superhero success, a book Don Thompson, co-editor of Comics Buyer's Guide, calls "the best new super-hero comic book since *Liberty Project*."

Cheap Shoddy Robot Toys Invade Shops For Christmas

Sabatini Pens Parody Of *Robotech* Genre

Comics fans in need of a great stocking stuffer for their non-comics reading friends and family won't have to look too far this winter. *Cheap Shoddy Robot Toys* aren't just the perfect item of obsolescence this year—they're also a comic book.

Written by Beppe Sabatini, with art by Martin King and Gary Martin, *Cheap Shoddy Robot Toys* is, according to its author, "a light-hearted comedy-adventure involving orbiting death lasers, escalation of the nuclear cold war, famine, plague, and the death of thousands."

Shipping in late November, *Cheap Shoddy Robot Toys* will hit stores just at the height of the holiday spree of commercialism. Writer Sabatini suggests that the comic might be used by parents as an inexpensive substitute for the real robot toys. "Your kid might be screaming for some junk that costs fifty, a hundred dollars," he explains. "You could get him this full colour comic for less than two bucks. That should shut him up."

Sell-outs on the first two issues of both *Lost Planet* and *The Liberty Project* make this look like a very good year for new titles with the initials L.P. "They're such wildly disparate comics," says Deming, "but they're both receiving great reaction from the fans. I think *The Liberty Project* is one of the major sleepers of 1987, and *Lost Planet* is full of simply stunning artwork."

Still More Sell-Outs

Weird Tales, Hotspur, Liberty, Lost Planet Head Up The Charts

In addition to sell-outs on second printings of *Area 88 #1*, *Mat #.*, and *Komus #3*, Eclipse distribution manager Sean Deming reports that *Weird Tales #1*, *Hotspur #1*, *The Liberty Project #2*, and *Lost Planet #1* are now unavailable from Eclipse. "A few distributors out there may still be holding copies," he says, "but our main warehouse is completely sold out."

Sell-outs on the first two issues of both *Lost Planet* and *The Liberty Project* make this look like a very good year for new titles with the initials L.P. "They're such wildly disparate comics," says Deming, "but they're both receiving great reaction from the fans. I think *The Liberty Project* is one of the major sleepers of 1987, and *Lost Planet* is full of simply stunning artwork."

To help retailers who have gotten caught short by the rapid sell-outs on many Eclipse titles, Deming has begun sending out a tip sheet to distributors that will help them make a more informed choice when deciding what quantities to order on Eclipse titles. "If you're not one of the retailers whose distributors regularly send out copies of this tip sheet," says Deming, "just write to me at P.O. Box 1099 Forestville, CA 95436, and I'll make sure to send you a copy every month."

"MAI hints at the huge world of Japanese comics.... I suspect that MAI may be a comic—and a heroine—to fall in love with."

Gerard Jones
"Amazing Heroes"

MAI™
THE PSYCHIC GIRL

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KAZUYA KUDO

Art by
RYOICHI IKEGAMI

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ECLIPSE INTERNATIONAL™ & VIZ COMICS
COMICS SLICKER THAN ROCK'N'ROLL

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California GIRLS

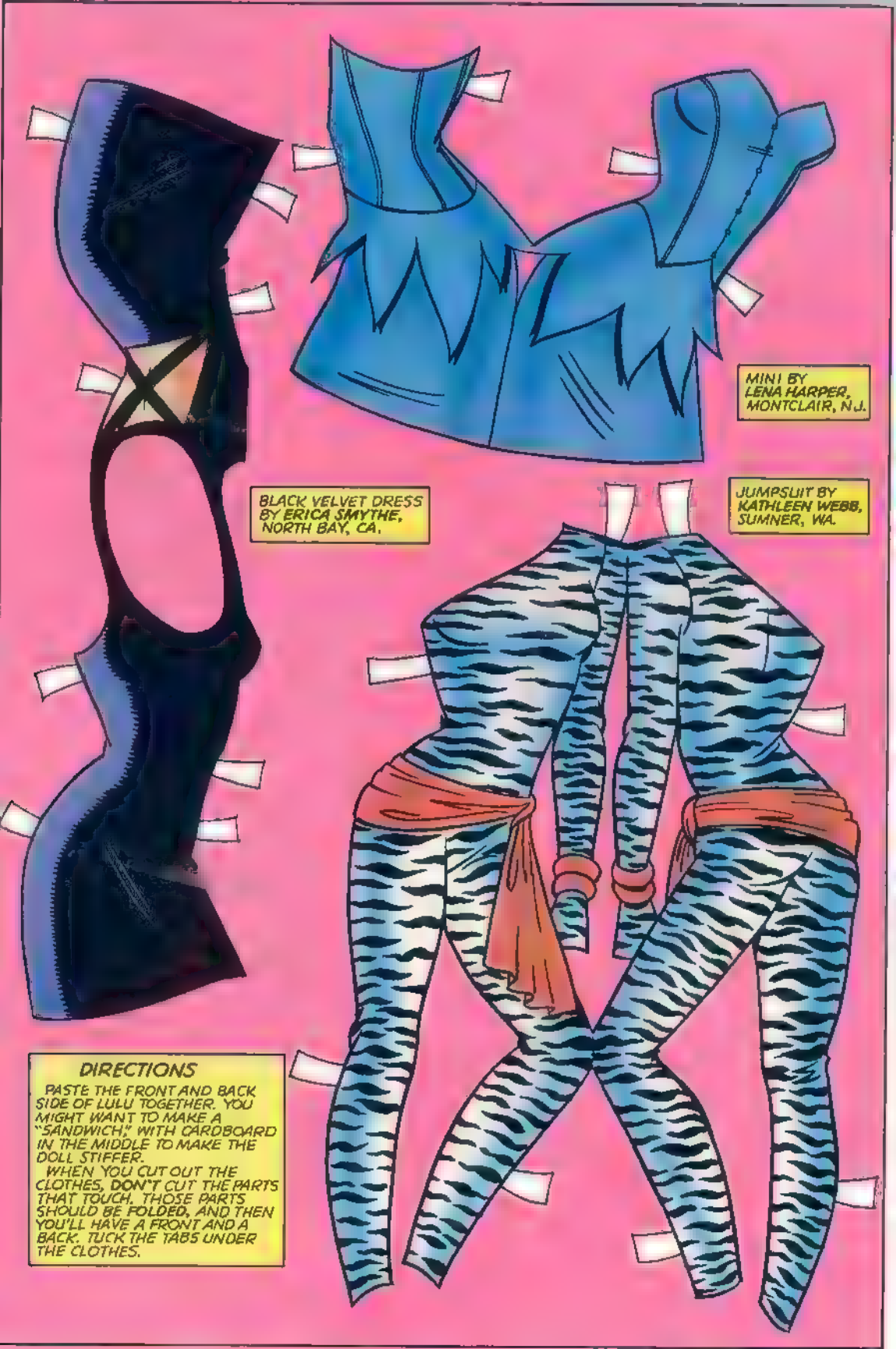
Designer of the Month

This month's featured designer, Brendan Gramer, is 16 years old and a Junior at Fenwick High School in his home town of Oak Park, Illinois. Brendan lists his favorite comics as "**Zot!, Nexus, Elementals, Flash, Superman, The Rocketeer, Dark Knight,** and, of course, **California Girls!** His other interests include soccer and baseball, camping, drawing, and going out with friends to have a good time.

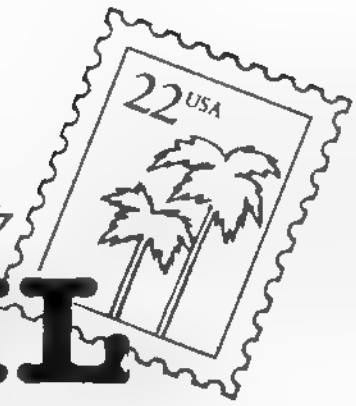
Brendan is a fanzine artist and editor, and would like to break into the comic book field. Or, he writes, "I may go into advertising design or fashion design because I like to design clothes for females with flair." The California Girls think Brendan's fashion sketches have loads of flair, and we've printed two of them here. His pencils were so nice and dark that Trina didn't even have to ink them!

Brendan writes that he loves receiving letters and would like to correspond with other **California Girls** readers. We suggest that anyone who'd like to be Brendan's pen pal send their letters to us, and we'll forward them to Brendan.

It's... LULU!
COMING AND GOING
LULU'S HAIRDO BY TARA HAMBLEN, GULPH MILLS, PA.
BATHING SUIT BY BARBARA COTTRELL, MORRISVILLE, PA.


MINI BY LENA HARPER, MONTCLAIR, N.J.
BLACK VELVET DRESS BY ERICA SMYTHE, NORTH BAY, CA.
JUMPSUIT BY KATHLEEN WEBB, SUMNER, WA.
DIRECTIONS
PASTE THE FRONT AND BACK SIDE OF LULU TOGETHER. YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE A "SANDWICH," WITH CARDBOARD IN THE MIDDLE TO MAKE THE DOLL STIFFER.
WHEN YOU CUT OUT THE CLOTHES, DON'T CUT THE PARTS THAT TOUCH. THOSE PARTS SHOULD BE FOLDED, AND THEN YOU'LL HAVE A FRONT AND A BACK. TUCK THE TABS UNDER THE CLOTHES.

California MAIL



SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: **ECLIPSE COMICS**, P.O. BOX 1099, FORESTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95436

Dear Trina,

Let me start by, late as it is, saying how much I enjoyed your handling of **Wonder Woman** last year. It was all-around well done.

It is most pleasurable to view your latest work in **California Girls**. I find your artwork charming and refreshing; your style is one of my favorites in the field. I really liked your recent book on paper dolls. Will we see a second volume? I hope so. Also, I would like (love) to see a story with Katy Keene, done by you.

All the fashions and story ideas I sent are for Mo and Max, since they are my favorite characters. Roxanne and Rockin' Lulu I don't particularly like, maybe I will in time.

(1) I like the first story better than the second (issue one).

(2) I hope Max and Mo don't talk like Valley Girls.

(3) A complete checklist of your work would be nice.

(4) Hope you keep the color pages in the middle of the book.

(5) I wish you luck with your new venture.

As Always,
Alfred Huete
Spring Valley, CA

Dear Alfred,

Thanks for the kind words on my work! Unfortunately, there's no way I could ever do a Katy Keene story, unless Archie Comics wanted *me to draw her, because they own the character. (And it still seems strange to me that a company can own the creation of an artist!)*

I, also, hope that Max and Mo don't talk like Valley Girls! And I hope that by now you've decided that you like Roxanne and Lulu, too. I wouldn't dream *of discontinuing the color center spread—that's one of the things that makes this book so special.*

Love,
Trina

Hi, Max and Mo,

I like your comic books. Hope you keep making them. I am going to 7th grade, and I'm scared to go, but all my friends are going. I like to draw. Hope you like my drawings! Hope you have more coloring contests.

Love,
Sherry Logan
Bakersfield, CA

Hi, Sherry!

Betcha that by now you've discovered that 7th grade isn't any more scary than 6th grade was!

Love,
Max and Mo

Dear Max and Mo,

I enjoyed the first issue of **California Girls**. It's neat because the readers can send in their fashions for the characters to wear. I sent you some fashions that I drew. I'm 14 years old, going to be 15 in October. I'm not going to miss a single issue of **California Girls**.

Neil Titus
Coopersville, MI

Dear Neil,

Thanks for your great designs! Look for them in future issues of ***California Girls.***

Love,
Max and Mo

Dear Trina,

I noticed that **California Girls** is *very* similar to **Misty**, except there are two leading ladies. You have the same cast of characters: Lulu-Spike, Roxanne-Shirelle, Mo and Max-Misty, and Laverne-Darlene.

You also have a similar setting; modern times, new wave kids, high school, a rich little spoiled brat, a rocker/punk, and a black girl!

Why does everybody always have to be absolutely gorgeous and handsome? It would be nice to see an ugly face in there somewhere!

I doubt you are going to print this letter. I also doubt Trina is going to read this anyway, but I thought I would tell you.

Kelly Hall
Helotes, TX

Dear Kelly,

Not read your letter? Not print it? You gotta be kidding! I've begged *for some criticism, and all I ever get are letters telling me how much they* like *California Girls!*

First, let's tackle the Misty problem. I think

there's a distinct possibility that ***California Girls*** *resembles* ***Misty*** *so much because the two comics were created, written and drawn by the same person—moi. Now, when I did* ***Misty****, all the letters I got seemed to indicate that the readers really liked what I had come up with—the characters, the settings. Unfortunately, Marvel Comics owned Misty (see my reply to Alfred Huete about Katy Keene), even though I had created her, so I couldn't draw* ***Misty*** *for Eclipse Comics. But because the readers seemed to like them, I kept the same elements in* ***California Girls*** *that had been in* ***Misty****—and anyway, I liked those characters, too!*

Now, your second criticism's very important, because I've heard that from others, too. And you're right—not all teenagers are perfect and gorgeous—and I promise that in future ***California Girls*** *stories you'll be seeing some less than perfect characters, okay?*

Love,
Trina

Dear Sir or Madame,

Here's the coloring contest—I picked Mo because I was inspired to see her having an Egyptian theme...ancient Egypt is my deep interest and I study a lot about it. I think the designs of the costumes are fantastic!

There's nothing that I dislike about **California Girls**, and I like the whole thing! Keep it up! Since I am an artist I enjoy the artwork in the comic, and I especially enjoy coloring the clothes, because fooling around with colors is my favorite thing to do.

Sincerely,
Jim Carson III
Columbus, OH

Dear Jim,

Glad you like ancient Egypt—it's one of my favorite things, too!

Love, neither Sir NOR
Madame, but simply,
Trina

Dear Trina,

I would just like to say that **California Girls** has turned out to be one of the best comics on the market!! The illustrations and the stories are both totally bitchin'! There are some very good designers featured in your comic.

I have an idea for you. How about letting people write in to get pen pals who are designers? I know that I would appreciate a pen pal. You can handle the first letter, then if they like their pen pal they can exchange addresses.

I'd like to also thank you for making me designer of the month. It makes me feel really good that people think that I'm a good designer. By the way, when will I get my designer card?

Your friend and #1 fan,
Wren Britton
Elmont, NY

Dear Wren,

If you haven't received your designer card by now, write to Eclipse and complain! I think your pen pal idea is terrific. How about it, readers? If you want to write to Wren, or anybody else, send the letter care of ***California Girls*** *and we'll forward it.*

Love,
Trina

Dear Trina,

I'm 11 years old, and I *love* your comics. I collect lots of comics. I have tons of Archie comics. I have some Japanese comics. The only problem is the Japanese comics are written in Japanese, so I can't read them, only look at the pictures. This summer I spent over $160 on comics. I also have **Mai, the Psychic Girl** (another comic from Eclipse). I want to take a class so I can read Japanese and get more use out of my comics, but my family can't afford the time or the money. I basically collect comics for girls. I love to draw. I'm the best artist in my class. I also want to take an art class, but that's another thing we can't afford. When I get older I want to go to Japan. I want to work in Japan and draw cartoons for a living. I hope you like the outfits I sent in.

Bye-bye!
Love,
Deloris Skrade
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Deloris,

Your designs are lovely! You're very talented. Perhaps when you reach high school, you can take some special art classes. In the meantime, the best way to get better is to just keep drawing. Until you can afford to learn Japanese, Eclipse is publishing still more Japanese comics (Kamui, Area 88 and Xenon) in English, so you can look at the pictures, and read them, too!

Love,
Trina

Dear Trina,

I really love the new comic and my name in print. I really appreciate everything you've done for me!! The only problem is now I'm not sure of what I want to be. I love comics, drawing, fashion, and designing, but they're like hobbies now. It's like I'm committed to being undecided. Well, I guess I still have about 70-80 years to do whatever, right?

(1) I love everything you're doing.

(2) I love Barbara Cottrell and Lynne Dudley's designs.

(3) I'm going to Japan on an exchange! I'm so excited!

(4) Maybe you could have a set of bad twins and a nice rich girl in the series.

(5) This isn't the last you'll hear of me!!!

Yours truly,
Irene Kim
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada

Dear Irene,

Fabulous! A trip to Japan! This sounds just like what Deloris wants—maybe you could give her a few pointers. Your idea about the bad twins and the

nice rich girl is a winner. Look for it in a future ***California Girls*** *comic!*

Love,
Trina

Dear Trina,

I just finished reading the first issue of **California Girls** and it's great. Max and Mo are terrific, as are the rest of the cast, and I hope the book enjoys a good long run. I've enclosed a few designs for the girls with this letter. Pardon me for using the paper dolls from issue #1 to do my designs on, I can't draw worth a darn and I wanted them to look nice.

Now, to tell you a little about myself. I'm a twenty-eight year old petty officer in the Navy and I've been collecting and reading comic books for some fifteen years. Despite my age and gender, my all-time favorite is **Betty and Veronica**, followed by the **Avengers, Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Justice League,** and **Superman**. I collect over four dozen different titles every month, but look forward most to the Archie titles

When I'm not reading comics, my nose is stuck into books. What I read most are adventure, science fiction, and horror. At present, I'm studying to be a writer and am crafting my first novel, a teen romance. One day I'll be a published author. I enjoy reader participation comics like **California Girls**. I especially like designing outfits for girls, which for me is both fun and challenging. I hope to be a regular contributor to the book, I know I'll be a regular reader. Have a nice day.

Sincerely yours,
Jeffrey C. Branch
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Jeffrey,

I too like ***Betty and Veronica*** *— particularly when drawn by the great Dan DeCarlo. I'm delighted to have a petty officer in the Navy designing clothes for us —as you can see, we're using some in this issue. Thanks!*

Love,
Trina

Hi, Trina!

It's fun for me to buy your comics, **Misty** and **Wonder Woman,** because they're such a plus to the stern-faced macho determination of superheroes. I enjoy **Elektra** and **Miracleman,** but I want the laugh from comics, too. I'm getting that now from **California Girls**! (I've ordered two subscriptions from the local comic shop; one for Rhonda and one for myself...)

Bob Burden t-shirt design! Ha, ha, ha!

And Molly's attitude (and style)...how she just popped up at this totally bad time and took her stand for independence! It's so typical of life! Gene at pizza, too! So concise; trying to get a word in edgewise.

The original sketch page by Irene Kim was a really nice touch to the issue. It's great that you value the originals submitted and put them in print.

Anyway, thanks. It's too fun.

Your pal,
Michael Vollmer
Spokane, WA

Dear Michael,

Whaddya mean, "Bob Burden t-shirt design, Ha, ha, ha?" I'll have you know that Bob Burden sat at my drawing table and drew in that t-shirt with his own hand! Glad you like the comic, and I hope Rhonda does, too!

Love,
Trina

Important announcement! Next month, if you go to your comic stores looking for ***California Girls*** *#7, you won't find it! This is not, repeat* not, *because the book is ending.* ***California Girls*** *is continuing past issue #6, but it's going bi-monthly starting with issue #7. This is because Trina has simply found it impossible to write, pencil and ink (and do the airbrushed color on the cover and centerspread!) an entire book each month and still keep her sanity. Sooo...look for* ***California Girls*** *the month after next, and you'll find it—and every other month after that.*

About our guest-pencillers: Jolly Joshua Quagmire returns to do the sequel to the Smidgin story that was in ***California Girls*** *#4. What more can we say about him that we haven't already said? Nobody draws animals as cute as Josh does. Bouncy Barb Rausch pencilled the other story in this issue. Barb drew four issues of a beautiful comic called* ***Vickie Valentine****, published by Renegade Press. Maybe if you're lucky you can find back issues of it in your comic store. More recently, she's worked on the "Jem" show for television. We think Beauteous Barb is a top notch artist, and hope to have her back!*

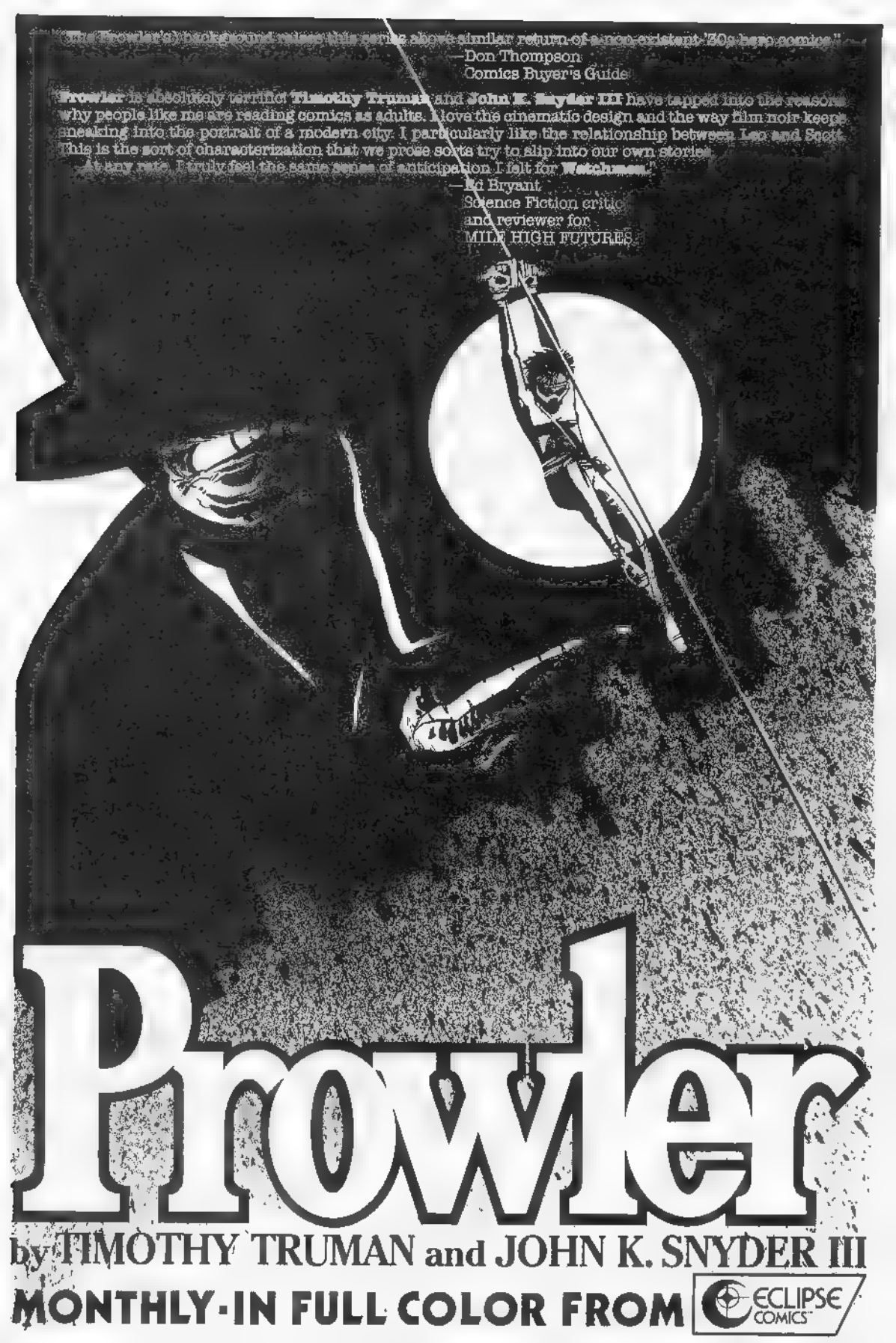
And now—announcing the winnahs of the ***California Girls*** *coloring contest! It wasn't easy choosing the best, gang, but original drawings by Trina Robbins have gone out to the two winners, Jean Alter of Scarsdale, New York, in the over-13 age group, and Leigh Landman of Cotati, California, in the under-13 age group. There were so many other beautiful entries that we decided to have an honorable mention list, and here it is:*

Honorable Mention, over-13 category: Jeffrey C. Branch, Philadelphia, PA; Myrinda Siciliani, Spring Valley, CA; Jim Carson III, Columbus, Ohio; Patricia White, Highland Park, NJ; Barbara Cottrell, Morrisville, PA; Erma Lieto, North Bergen, NJ; Debbie Kim, Kirkland, WA; Johnny Carruthers, Murray, KY.

Under-13 category: Robyn Michelle Parks, S.W. Atlanta, GA; Deloris Skrade, Minneapolis, MN; Angie, who lives on S. Chappel, but didn't give us her last name or the state she lives in; Diane Lowy, Washington, D.C.; Kari Neumeyer, Beverly Hills, CA; Nicole Melendez, Bakersfield, CA; Maria Herro, Madison, WI; Moragan Luckey, Nevada City, CA; Gina Wood, Spring, TX; and Jennifer Huntly, Bristol, CT.

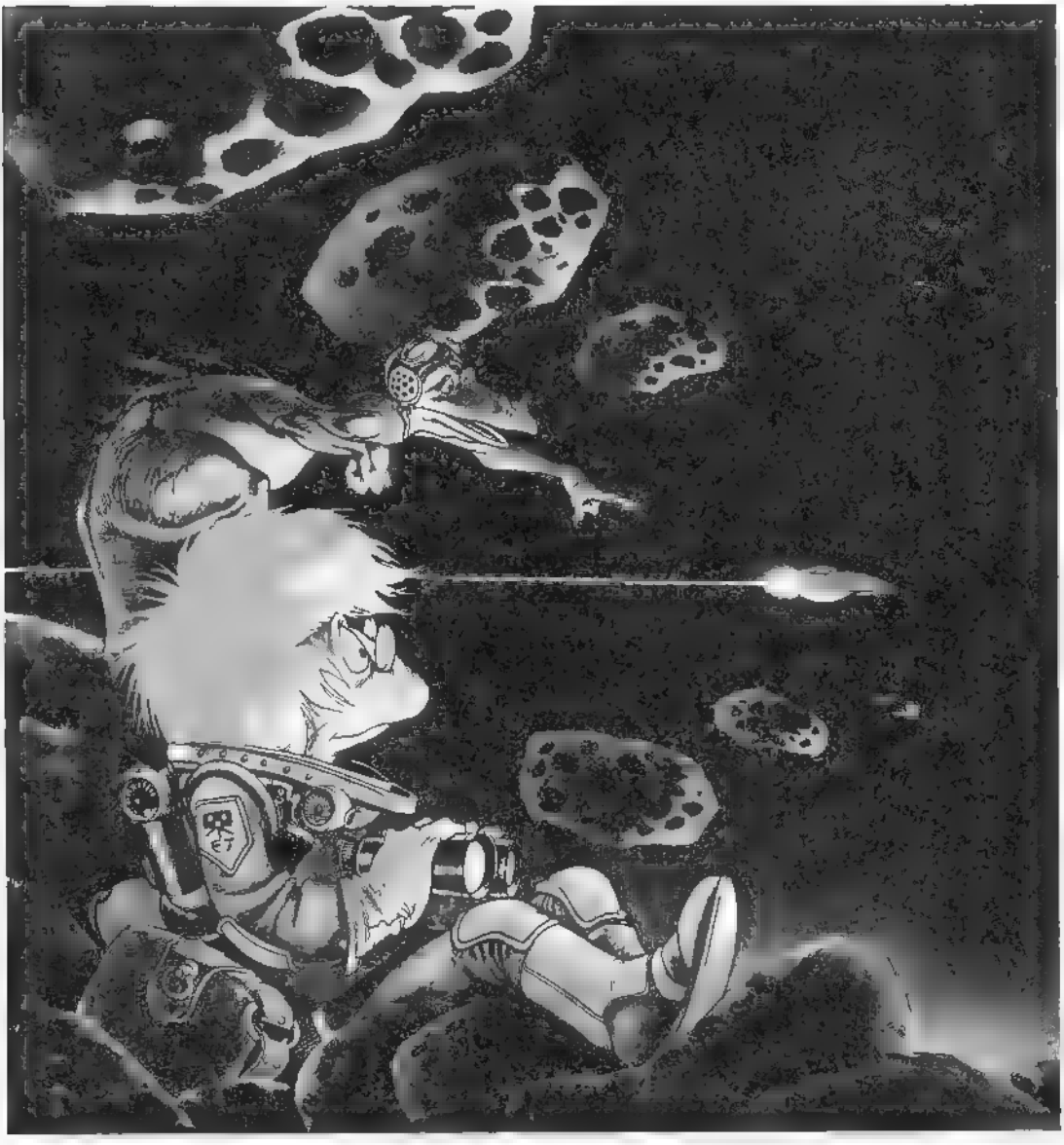
That's it! See you in 60 days!

Love,
Max and Mo,
The California Girls


"The Prowler's background makes this series above a similar return of a non-existant '30s hero comics."
—Don Thompson
Comics Buyer's Guide
Prowler is absolutely terrific! Timothy Truman and John K. Snyder III have tapped into the reasons why people like me are reading comics as adults. I love the cinematic design and the way film noir keeps sneaking into the portrait of a modern city. I particularly like the relationship between Leo and Scott. This is the sort of characterization that we prose sorts try to slip into our own stories.
At any rate, I truly feel the same sense of anticipation I felt for Watchmen."
—Ed Bryant
Science Fiction critic
and reviewer for
MILE HIGH FUTURES
Prowler
by TIMOTHY TRUMAN and JOHN K. SNYDER III
MONTHLY·IN FULL COLOR FROM
ECLIPSE COMICS

FUSION

featuring
Dr. Watchstop



Time's a'wastin'—
Pick it up.

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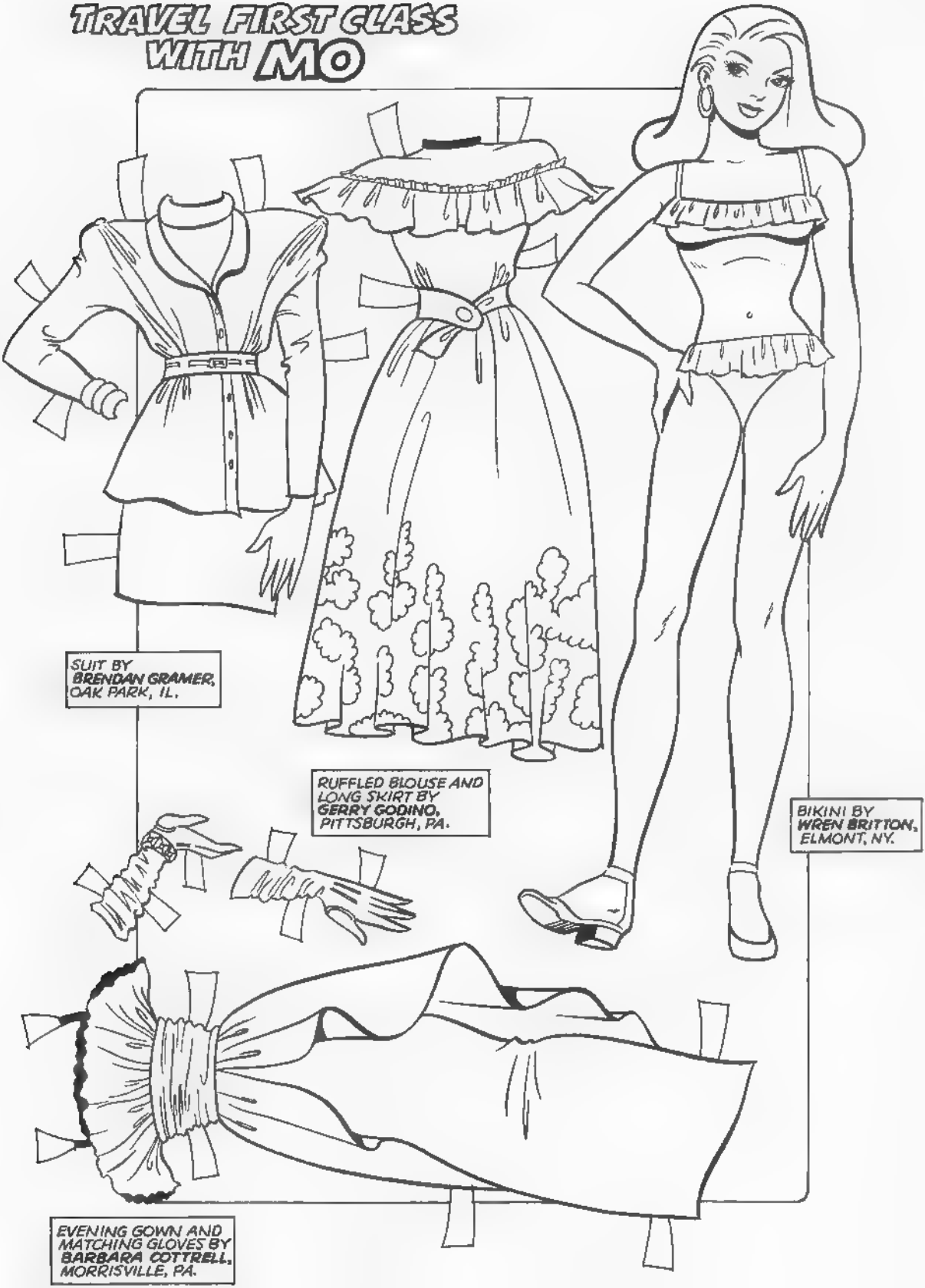
Quality Guaranteed

TRAVEL FIRST CLASS WITH MO



SUIT BY **BRENDAN GRAMER,** OAK PARK, IL.

RUFFLED BLOUSE AND LONG SKIRT BY **GERRY GODINO,** PITTSBURGH, PA.

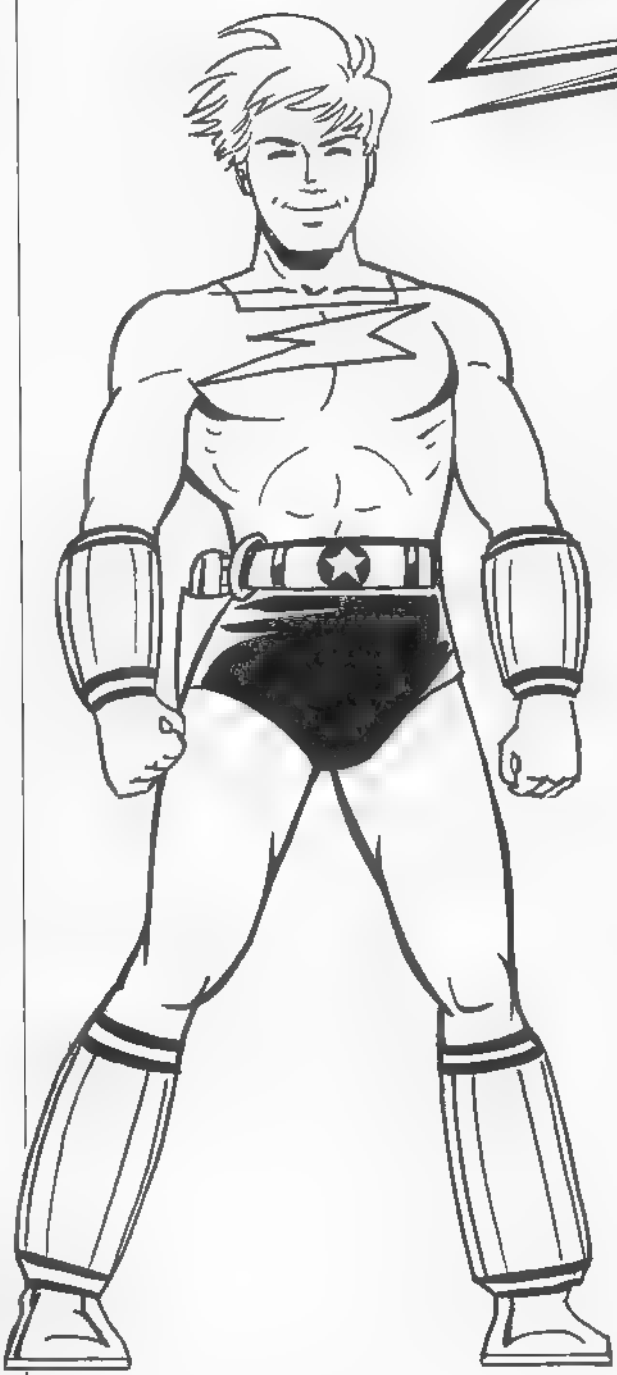
BIKINI BY **WREN BRITTON,** ELMONT, NY.

EVENING GOWN AND MATCHING GLOVES BY **BARBARA COTTRELL,** MORRISVILLE, PA.

"A+ FIND IT, BUY IT, READ IT."

Don Thompson, Comics Buyer's Guide

ZOT!



'**Zot!** is back and it is at *least* as good as ever. Even if you missed the first 10 issues, you will be able to follow the story. Grade: A-plus."

Don Thompson,
Comics Buyer's Guide

"Zot! looks every bit as good in black-and-white as he did in color—and maybe even better! It's been a long wait but worth every second!"

Diana Schutz,
Editor-in-Chief,
Comico the Comic Company

"**Zot!** is the work of an explosively original talent. Scott McCloud is going to be a major figure in the field someday, but right now he's simply one of comics' best kept secrets."

Speakeasy Magazine,
London

"Zot's back now. Like every great hero, he refused to let his first defeat keep him down. For me that's the best comic book news in 17 years. For you, it's a golden opportunity to discover something great. I look forward to the day when all the cheap, amateur black-and-white junk dies and the really fine black-and-white artists like Scott McCloud...can have the shelves to themselves again."

Gerard Jones,
Amazing Heroes Magazine

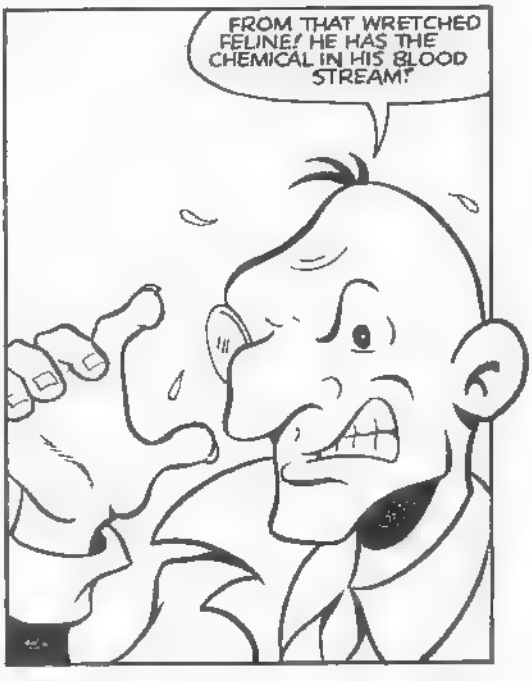
© 1987 Scott McCloud

ECLIPSE COMICS®

The Perils of SMIDGIN!!
THIS IS SMIDGIN, THE WORLD'S SHORTEST--AND SMARTEST--CAT. IF YOU READ CALIFORNIA GIRLS #4, YOU KNOW HOW HE GOT THAT WAY.
DEAR SMIDGIN, I REALLY LIKE YOUR STORYS, BUT WHO DREW THAT MESS?
TAFFY O'HARE 224 MOSS AV PEORIA, ILL.
Story & Inks by Trina Robbins
Guest-Penciller Joshua Quagmire
Lettering L. Lois Buhalis
R. Reagan 1600 Pennsylvania Av. Washington, D.C.
SMIDGIN USED TO BE A NORMAL, ORDINARY-SIZED ALLEY CAT, UNTIL HE FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE EVIL SCIENTIST, DOCTOR DOOMUCH.
MY NEW CHEMICAL, REDUCTO, WILL REDUCE ALL DOGS AND CATS TO THE SIZE OF PUPPIES AND KITTENS, AND MAKE ME A MILLIONAIRE!
YES, MASTER.
?
BUT WHEN THE REDUCTO SHRANK SMIDGIN TO THE SIZE OF A KITTEN, IT CONDENSED HIS BRAIN, AND MADE HIM A KITTY GENIUS! HE FREED ALL THE OTHER LAB ANIMALS AND DESTROYED THE REDUCTO.
I'LL GET THAT LITTLE CAT IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
YES, MASTER.
OFFICIAL RE-CAP.

THE HIDDEN LABORATORY OF THE INSIDIOUS DOCTOR DOOMUCH, MERE BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE HOUSE OF MAX AND MO.
IT'S USELESS! USELESS, I TELL YOU!
YES, MASTER.
CUTEY BUNNY

WHEN THAT ROTTEN LITTLE KITTY KNOCKED OVER MY VIAL OF REDUCTO, HE SPILLED EVERY LAST DROP, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DUPLICATE THE FORMULA.
IGOR, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET MORE REDUCTO!
YES, MASTER?
WA-A


FROM THAT WRETCHED FELINE! HE HAS THE CHEMICAL IN HIS BLOOD STREAM!

IGOR, GO FIND THAT CRUMMY KITTY! WE'LL BOIL HIM DOWN TO HIS TRACE ELEMENTS AND PRODUCE--REDUCTO!
YES, MASTER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HOUSE OF MAX AND MO...
YUCK! CAN'T I HAVE A PIZZA?
SMIDGIN, DEAR, YOU MUST EAT ALL OF YOUR KITTY PRIDE, OR YOU'LL NEVER GROW UP TO BE BIG AND STRONG.
CAT
LOVELY CAT FOOD
HIGHLY CAT
YOU KNOW, MAX, SOMETIMES I THINK SMIDGIN WILL NEVER GROW UP TO BE BIG AND STRONG. WE'VE HAD HIM FOR A YEAR NOW, AND HE HASN'T GROWN AT ALL!
NONSENSE, MO...
MO'S DRESS WAS DESIGNED BY A READER WHO DIDN'T INCLUDE NAME OR ADDRESS!
...SMIDGIN IS JUST A VERY SLOW GROWER, THAT'S ALL. BESIDES, LITTLE CATS ARE CUTE!
HARK!
BBBUUZZZZZzz
YOU ARE CUTE, SMIDGIN!
I'LL GET THE DOOR!
YOU'RE CUTE, TOO?
KITTY FOOD
MAX'S OUTFIT BY GARY GODINO, PITTSBURGH, PA.
GOOD AFTERNOON. I'M GIVING OUT FREE SAMPLES OF KITTY-GRO. IT'S A NEW VITAMIN GUARANTEED TO MAKE EVEN THE SHORTEST CAT GROW BIG AND STRONG!
KITTY-GRO VITAMIN FOOD
!?!
RAD! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE NEED FOR SMIDGIN!
AHA! I MEAN, DO YOU HAVE A SHORT CAT?
DO WE?
KITTY-GRO BUILDS 1/4 KITTY IN 2 WAYS

AND MAY I SEE THIS, er, SHORT CAT?
SURE! I'LL GET HIM!
tum tee tum...
HALF A MINUTE LATER...
THIS IS SM--
HEY!
THAT'S THE ONE!
SNATCH!
HELP!
COME BACK WITH MY CAT!
MO! WHAT IN THE WORLD?
THAT MAN! ≠puffa-puff≠ HE-- HE STOLE SMIDGIN! ≠Puff≠
AND SOON...
BIG BULLY! WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE WHO CAN FIGHT BACK?
NOW WE'VE GOT HIM!
YES, MASTER.
TOMORROW WE'LL BOIL HIM DOWN, 'TIL ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE PRECIOUS CHEMICAL, REDUCTO! Heh, heh!
THEY'VE LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN!
I CAN CALL FOR HELP!

EVERY CAT HAS A DIFFERENT MEOW. IF THE TWINS PASS THIS WINDOW, THEY'LL RECOGNIZE MY VOICE!
MEANWHILE, THE TWINS ARE SCOURING THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR THEIR PRECIOUS PET.
IF I SEE HIM, I'LL CALL YOU.
...AND THIS IS WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.
WHEW! I'M READY TO TURN IN!
LET'S TRY ONE MORE STREET. WE CAN PUT A MISSING CAT POSTER UP ON THE TELEPHONE POLE!
YOU TAKE THAT SIDE OF THE STREET, AND I'LL... LISTEN!
I'D KNOW THAT VOICE ANYWHERE!
IT'S OUR OWN LITTLE SMIDGIN!
AND IT'S COMING FROM THAT HOUSE!
MO! THERE'S SOME KIND OF LABORATORY IN THERE WITH CAGES FULL OF CATS AND DOGS AND RABBITS!
AND SMIDGIN IS IN ONE OF THE CAGES!

WHILE, UPSTAIRS IN THAT VERY HOUSE...
IGOR! IGOR! =Grumble=
I'VE HAD IT WITH THAT PUTRID PUSS! HE WON'T LET ME SLEEP! LET'S BOIL HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW!
YES, MASTER?
AND DOWNSTAIRS...
FEAR NOT, SMIDGIN! WE'RE COMING TO RESCUE YOU!
OKAY, YOU FLUFFY LITTLE TERROR, WE'RE COMING TO GET YOU!
Uh-oh.
DON'T YOU TOUCH MY CAT!

SCREEE
OUCH!
OOF!
BONK
GAAAAA
HSSSSS
OO, THAT SMARTS! NOW, AS I WAS SAYING--
HSSS?
GUESS MY HEAD IS PRETTY HARD, heh, heh!
MASTER! MASTER! THE GIRL IS STILL DAZED!
LET'S GET HER INTO THIS CLOSET!
GET ME AN ASPIRIN, IGOR, FEELS LIKE I'VE GOT NEEDLES STICKING IN MY DOME
NOW WE CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HER.
WITH WHO?
DO NOT OPEN 'TIL XMAS
SLAM
YIII! HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF THE CLOSET?

YOU OUGHTTA BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF! WHO GAVE YOU THE RIGHT TO EXPERIMENT ON HELPLESS ANIMALS?
IGOR! SHOOT HER OR SOMETHING!
SORRY, MASTER. LITTLE ANIMALS THAT CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES ARE ONE THING, BUT I CAN'T FIGHT SOMEONE WITH THE POWER TO BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!
I'D RATHER BE IN CASABLANCA! 'BYE, MASTER!
COME BACK, YOU SNIVELING COWARD, OR I'LL REPORT YOU TO THE SPINELESS LACKEYS' GUILD!
GOLLY, GET UP, MAX.
Oh, NOOO! THERE ARE TWO OF THEM!
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED! STEALING OUR CAT!
NOT SO BRAVE AGAINST SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE, ARE YOU, YOU--YOU MAD SCIENTIST!
YOU TELL 'EM, MO! ALL BULLIES ARE COWARDS!

WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT ALL THESE ANIMALS? IF WE JUST LET THEM GO, THEY'LL HAVE NO HOMES!
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FIND THEM HOMES!
BLEHH
NEXT DAY...
Mrs. WEINSTEIN SAYS SHE'LL TAKE THE COLLIE, AND SHE THINKS HER SISTER WOULD LIKE A CAT. HOW'RE WE DOING?
WE'VE GIVEN AWAY MOST OF THE DOGS AND CATS. ALL THAT'RE LEFT ARE THE RABBITS.
MO, SHOULDN'T WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MAD SCIENTIST? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM IN THE CLOSET!
DON'T WORRY. ONCE HE GETS OVER HIS PANIC, HE'LL DISCOVER THAT THE CLOSET DOOR WASN'T LOCKED!
RING!
HELLO? YES, FIVE RABBITS. OH, THANK YOU!
THAT WAS TOMMY CHONG'S TEACHER. HE TOLD HER ABOUT THE FIVE RABBITS, AND SHE SAYS SHE'LL TAKE THEM FOR THE CLASS ZOO!
Uh, MAX, BETTER MAKE THAT SIX RABBITS--
--ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAKE THAT EIGHT RABBITS-- WOOPS! TEN RABBITS!
BUNNYS CHEAP... HURRY!

the End

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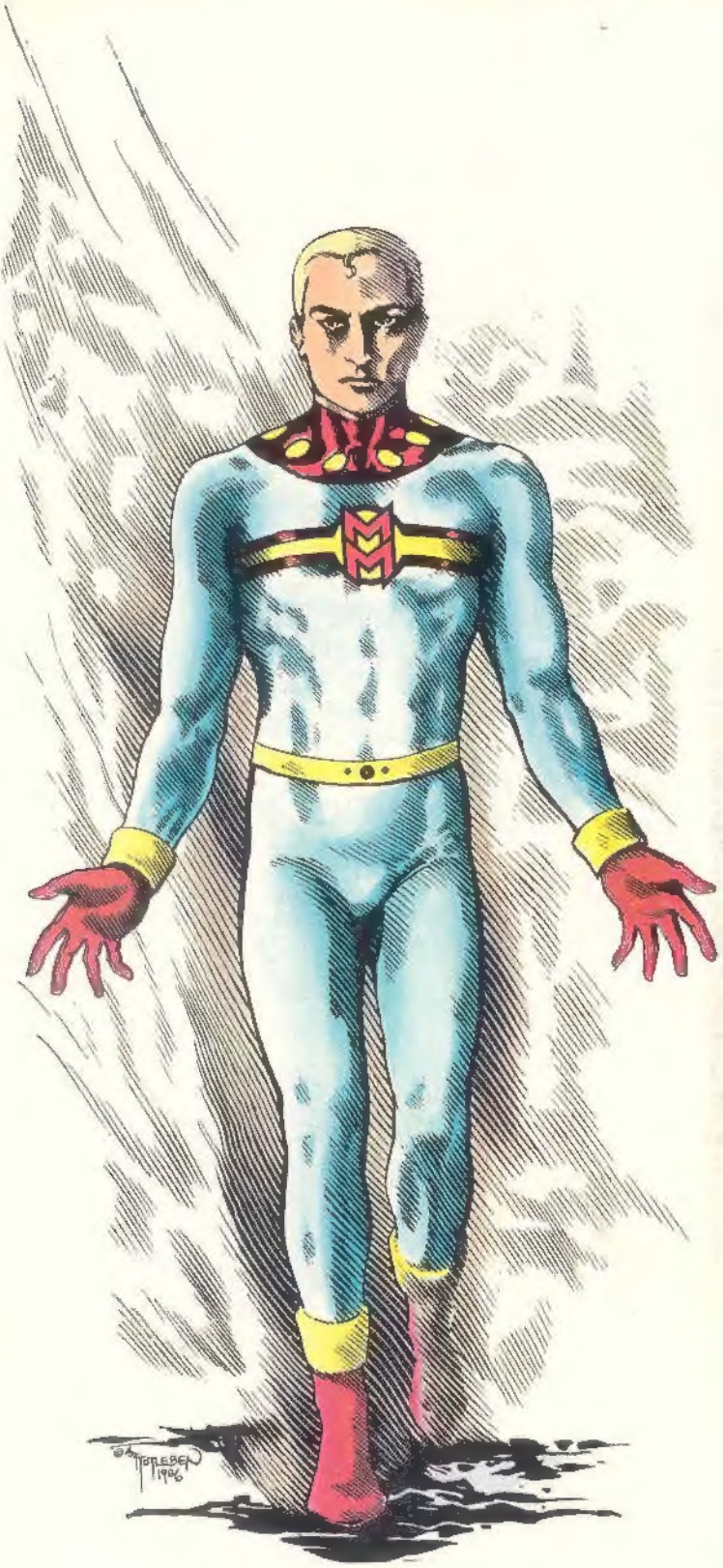

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